



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### REACH GEORGIA DAY

- WHEREAS: Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia is a public-private mentorship and needs-based scholarship program designed to promote academic success and increase access to higher education; and
- WHEREAS: Education is a crucial asset for every individual and often acts as a strong determinant of long-term success; and
- WHEREAS: By the year 2025, it is estimated that 60 percent of jobs in Georgia will require a college certificate or degree. Therefore, programs such as REACH Georgia are becoming increasingly critical to provide our youth with opportunities to obtain postsecondary credentials; and
- WHEREAS: Upon completion of high school, REACH Georgia awards program participants, known as REACH Scholars, a scholarship of up to \$10,000 - \$2,500 each year for up to four years - to be used at a HOPE-eligible two or four-year institution. Many colleges match or double-match the scholarship, providing scholars with additional resources to achieve success; and
- WHEREAS: Members of civic organizations, corporations, and faith-based communities throughout the state dedicate their time and efforts to REACH Georgia by funding scholarships, serving as mentors and tutors, and providing college and career counseling to REACH Scholars; and
- WHEREAS: Six years after its launch as a key competent of the Complete College Georgia Initiative, the REACH Georgia program now serves nearly 1,200 students in 103 school districts. Students who participate in the program will find themselves better prepared to graduate high school, enroll in a postsecondary institution, earn meaningful employment, and give back to their communities; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 12, 2018, as REACH GEORGIA DAY and encourage all Georgians to join in celebrating the growing success of this program, and to support our REACH Scholars as they learn and work to improve our state and local communities in the years to come.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF